

Sub order *PLECTOGNATHI*.

Family GYMNODONTES.

60. 1406. *Tetrodon cutcutia*, H. B., Newajitola, Ghogra,
R. 16-9-06 *Dathkirwa*.E. A. D'ABREU,
Curator,
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No. XVII.—THE OCCURRENCE OF THE SPINY-EEL (*RHYNCHOB-
DELLA ACULEATA* BLOCH), IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
AND EXTENSION OF ITS HABITAT.

The distribution given by Day for this fish in India is limited to the brackish waters within tidal influence in the deltas of the larger rivers.

It really ascends the rivers to a far greater distance, and will probably prove to have a much wider range even in fresh-water tanks far from tidal-influence. It is common in the Ganges at least as far as Patna and Chapra and is even found in the Ghogra. In Behar, it is well known and has a distinct vernacular name 'Gaichee'; differentiating it from *Bamie* and *Bam*, the terms applied to *Mastacembelus armatus* and other eels. I was not a little surprised when I found I had taken two specimens from an inland tank at Nagbhir in the North of the Chanda district in these provinces.

Other spiny-eels found locally are *M. armatus* and *M. pancalus*. The former may easily be recognised by its continuous dorsal, caudal, and anal fins. *R. aculeata* resembles *M. pancalus* in having the caudal fin disconnected with the dorsal and anal, but may be distinguished by having the snout transversely striate below and by the ocelli on the dorsal fin. The only other known Indian representative of this genus is *R. dhanashorii*, Hora, described in the Records of the Indian Museum, Vol. XXII, p. 205, from a single individual obtained in Dhanashori stream, about a mile from Dimapur, Assam. It was also taken far inland and in fresh water. This species differs from *R. aculeata* in having a characteristic colouration quite unlike *aculeata*. It is dull olivaceous with pale lines extending downwards and forwards from the base of the dorsal fin and becoming obscure in the belly region. Behind the vent these lines are joined together in an irregular manner to form a reticulation. A pale longitudinal band extends backwards from behind the eye and becomes obscure in the post anal region. The lower surface is pale, speckled with black on the lower surface of the head. The fins are dark, minutely banded and speckled with dull white; there are no ocelli on the dorsal fin. Its proportions are also different and the caudal and pectoral rays are 16 and 17 respectively, while in *aculeata* they are 15 and 23.

E. A. D'ABREU, F.Z.S.

CENTRAL MUSEUM,
NAGPUR, C. P.,

8th November 1924.

No. XVIII.—FORMULA FOR ESTIMATING WEIGHT OF
MAHSEER.

For several years past I have always made it a practice to carefully measure my fish in addition to weighing them, and, with a very few exceptions, have not been satisfied that the most generally recognised formula for estimating their weight from the measurements is as correct as it might be, at any rate when applied to Lake Mahseer, such as are caught in Lake Fife, Khadakwasla, near Poona.